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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 27, 2006. Claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 15, 17 to 23, 25 to 36 and 38 to 42 are in the application. Claims 1, 15 and 38 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 39 to 42 are allowed.

Claims 1, 15, 38, 40 and 42 were objected to over informalities. Amendments to the claims are believed to obviate the objections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Amendments to the claims are believed to obviate the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 13, 14, to 28 and 30 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,346 (Caldara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,542,507 (Read); and Claims 14 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Caldara in view of Read and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,872 (Saito). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns protocol data unit switching for selective interconnection of a transmitter port and a plurality of receiver ports selected from among at least two receiver ports by means of at least one internal bus. Each of the protocol data units is constituted of at least one piece of elementary data. Among its many features, the present invention includes blocking writing of at least one elementary piece of

data belonging to another protocol data unit to any one of selected receiver ports until all the selected receiver ports have received all the elementary pieces of data constituting a current protocol data unit.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a protocol data unit switching method used for the selective interconnection of a transmitter port and a plurality of receiver ports selected from among at least two receiver ports by means of at least one internal bus. The protocol data units are constituted by at least one elementary piece of data. The method comprises a synchronization mechanism defining time slots, called connection cycles, on at least one of the internal buses, and a mechanism for the allocation of at least one of the connection cycles to each of the selected receiver ports. The method also comprises a mechanism for the writing of at least one piece of elementary data in the allocated connection cycle or cycles so as to enable the broadcasting of the protocol data unit to the selected receiver ports. The writing mechanism comprises a verification step determining whether all the elementary pieces of data constituting a current protocol data unit have been received by each of the selected receiver ports, and writing of at least one elementary piece of data belonging to another protocol data unit to any one of the selected receiver ports is blocked until all the selected receiver ports have received all the elementary pieces of data constituting the current protocol data unit.

Independent Claims 15 and 38 are directed to a device and a computer program product, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 15 and 38, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at

least the feature of blocking writing of at least one elementary piece of data belonging to another protocol data unit to any one of selected receiver ports until all the selected receiver ports have received all the elementary pieces of data constituting a current protocol data unit.

The Office Action concedes that Caldara does not disclose selected receiver ports being blocked until all of them have received all elementary pieces of data.

Read is seen to disclose a mechanism to test a data path inside a switch matrix between a transmitter port and a receiver port. (See column 1, lines 42 to 55 and column 12, line 54 to column 13, line 5 of Read). Read also discloses "Even though a data path desired to be verified is busy, the standby highway select unit 104, standby SWIO 20 and STBYSW 30 can be substituted for the primary subsystems associated with the port". (column 13, lines 15 to 18 (emphasis added)).

While Read arguably discloses using two data paths (primary and standby) of a port, Read is not seen to disclose or to suggest blocking the port, much less disclose or suggest blocking writing of at least one elementary piece of data belonging to another protocol data unit to any one of selected receiver ports until all the selected receiver ports have received all the elementary pieces of data constituting a current protocol data unit.

The remaining cited reference, namely Saito, is not seen to cure the deficiencies of Caldara and Read. That is, Caldara, Read and Saito, either alone or in any permissible combination, are not seen to disclose or to suggest blocking writing of at least one elementary piece of data belonging to another protocol data unit to any one of selected receiver ports until all the selected receiver ports have received all the elementary pieces of

data constituting a current protocol data unit. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 15 and 38 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Turning to formal matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the document titled "160 Gbit/s High Speed ATM Switching System," which was submitted was filed with the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 1, 2002 and listed on the corresponding Form PTO-1449. Applicants note that the copy of the document is available on the Patent Office's Image File Wrapper system. In addition, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the Form PTO-1449.

In addition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed on May 1, 2002.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward A. Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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